

A NOTE ON THE TYPE OF *ACAENA OVINA* VAR. *AMBIGUA* KIRK (ROSACEAE)

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Abstract. A lectotype is chosen for *Acaena ovina* var. *ambigua* Kirk, and its identity with *A. × anserovina* Orchard is confirmed.

The type of *Acaena ovina* var. *ambigua* Kirk (1899) was not available for two earlier treatments of the *A. ovina* complex (Orchard 1969, 1973), in which it was suggested that Kirk's taxon was synonymous with *A. × anserovina* Orchard. This identity has now been confirmed.

A recent examination of material from the National Museum, Wellington, revealed that two syntypes of Kirk's variety exist, viz. J. Buchanan s.n., College Hills, Wellington, WELT 44173 (herb. Kirk), and Anon. s.n., 4.i.1894, College Paddock, WELT 44172 (herb. Kirk). Both localities are identified as the grounds of Wellington College on the side of Mt. Victoria, Wellington (B. Hamlin, pers. comm.). The type was described as "Collected by J. Buchanan, on Mount Victoria, Wellington". In view of Kirk's stated reliance on Buchanan's earlier paper (Buchanan 1871), the first of the above two specimens is the logical choice for lectotype, and has been so annotated by me. The second specimen is almost certainly a duplicate of the first (isolectotype), and has additional interest in that it is mixed on the sheet with specimens of *A. agnipila* var. *aequispina* Orchard.

The species *A. × anserovina* has been defined as the result of natural hybridisation between the *A. ovina* complex and the *A. anserinifolia* complex (Orchard 1973). Examination of the type of *A. ovina* var. *ambigua* confirms that this taxon is conspecific with *A. × anserovina*. Thus, although in many cases the exact parentage of specimens of *A. × anserovina* is not known, it seems likely that one parent in this case was *A. agnipila* var. *aequispina*. The other was probably *A. anserinifolia* or *A. novae-zelandiae*, but this cannot be determined now with certainty.

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